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[NO. 7.

LAWS REGULATING THE RESEMBLANCE OF PROGENY TO PARENTS.

BY ALEXANDER WALKER, ESQ.

THERE is now to be described a series of facts, which are certainly among the most curious and interesting of those which appear to have escaped the notice of philosophical observers.

This is the more surprising, as it requires but little analytical power to detect them, as, when observed, they appear to be of the simplest description, and as the regularity of their sequence is such as to constitute apparently so many general laws.

These laws regard the mode in which the organization of parents affects that of children, or regulates the organs which each parent respectively bestows.

Among animals, the effects of such laws have been observed to take place, and they constitute the various cross-breeds; but the laws themselves, on which these effects depend, have neither been defined, nor have they been applied to, nor observed to operate among, mankind.

It will be observed, in the sequel, that these laws indicate pairs of organs, successively corresponding, one to the male and another to the female parent.

The general dependence, however, of all these correspondences upon one is so great, and the general sequence of these resemblances seems so certain, that they appear to tend to one great law, as will be seen in the sequel.

As on the size, form, and proportion of the various organs depend their functions, the importance of such laws is immense, whether we regard intermarriages and that immunity from mental or bodily disease, which, when well directed, they may insure, or the education of children in conformity with their faculties, or the employment of men in society.

Little reasoning, however, shall here be founded on these facts, because it might be premature; and such reasoning as is appended will assume no hypothetical data at the expense of truth, for we have seen, in the mystic doctrines of phrenology, the ease with which the assumption of a great number of insulated organs may be made deceptively to account for any habit of life.

If, then, one parent communicate the anterior part of the head, the other will be found to communicate the posterior part.

The parent giving the anterior part of the brain, appears also to give the upper middle part.

The parent giving the posterior part of the brain, appears also to give the lower middle part.

These include the very few great, yet simple organs, on which all mental phenomena depend ; and we have not here, as in phrenology, minute and mysterious, but great and easily explicable organs.

The form of the eye appears to accompany that of the forehead.

The form of the ear appears to accompany that of the back-head.

The form of the teeth and the tone of the voice appear generally to accompany the form of the forehead.

The form of the under lip appears generally to accompany that of the back-head.

The form of the face, considered generally, appears to accompany that of the forehead.

The form of the cerebel, or organ of volition, and the whole figure which that organ influences, appear to accompany that of the back-head, even to the fingers, toes, and nails.

Not merely the ear and under lip, but the appetites, the digestive, the respiratory, and glandular organs, including the structure of the skin, appear to accompany the back-head, or, I believe, it would be more accurate to say the lower middle part of the head, which accompanies the back-head.

As, in the face, the form of the teeth and all the osseous parts appears to accompany that of the forehead, while the form of the most muscular part, the under lip, accompanies that of the back-head ; it is not quite certain that, in the figure, the osseous parts do not accompany the forehead, while the muscular parts alone may accompany the back-head.

It hence appears, that the forehead, the upper middle part of the head, and the face, except the under lip, go together ; and that the back-head, the lower middle part of the head, the ear, the under lip, the general figure, even to the fingers, toes, and nails, as well as the digestive, respiratory, and secreting organs, including the skin, accompany each other.

In every case it will be found that, along with the forehead, &c., go the functions of sensation and observation, and along with the back-head the passions and volition. It is unnecessary to enter here into any theory of the mind, with which this fact is connected. Being a fact, it is better that it should stand alone, and depend for its verification on the further observations of every inquirer. It must, however, be borne in mind, as necessary to understanding the sequel.

A good drawing of the heads of Napoleon, Maria Louisa, and their son, in some measure illustrates these laws, as it shows the son to have the forehead and general face of the mother, but the under lip of the father, while Napoleon himself testifies as to his son having his "great head."

Every observer, however, has the power of verifying these facts in nature.

With this view, the following scheme of the apparently dependent organs may be drawn out in two columns, over one of which may be written the word "mother," and over the other the word "father."

A copy of this scheme should be used in examining each child, and the organs of the father or mother respectively, which the child does not possess, may be crossed out.

Name or initials of child.			
MOTHER.	FATHER.	MOTHER.	FATHER.
Forehead	Forehead	Face	Face
Back-head	Back-head	Figure	Figure
Upper middle part	Upper middle part	Chest	Chest
Under middle part*	Under middle part	Limbs	Limbs
Eyes	Eyes	Fingers, toes, nails	Fingers, toes, nails
Ears	Ears	Appetites	Appetites
Teeth	Teeth	Digestive system, &c.	Digestive system, &c.
Under lip	Under lip	Skin	Skin

A knowledge of these laws is of great importance in determining the parentage of a child.

Thousands of doubtful cases occur in consequence of the face presenting little resemblance to one of the parents, and from other causes which may really or seemingly corroborate this one.

These laws, however, show that the lineaments of the other parent will always be discovered in the figure, &c.

Here it must be observed, that the doubts arising from this want of resemblance in the face, would much more frequently occur were it not that, along with the form of the back-head, which the other parent imparts, go the common appetites, sympathies, and passions, which bind them together as insensibly as surely.

This explains why the parent is generally more attached to the child which is least resembled in face.

The importance of these laws in the guidance of education is not less obvious ; for it is evident that they not only indicate the capacity of the child, but corroborate this by all the parent's own experience, whence he will naturally seek eagerly to profit in the person of his child.

A knowledge of these laws, in the case of all intermarriages, is evidently of great importance, though a very narrow and mistaken interest will lead to their neglect.

A moment's reflection will show, that the proportion which exists between these parts in the heads of parents, must be nearly decisive of the character of their progeny ; and that if these parts be feeble in both parents, they must also be so in the offspring. Hence the perpetually increasing degeneracy of aristocratic families, in whom none of the intellectual organs are improved and strengthened by incessant action, but, on the contrary, dwindle away, as do all bodily organs, by entire inactivity.

An extreme case will render the importance of these laws more obvious and impressive. Suppose mental incapacity or aberration to exist in a slight degree, in consequence of defect or excess of any of the great portions of the brain alluded to ; and on this, it will generally be found to depend.

The most prejudiced will not dispute, that in this case, if marriage be inevitable, its victim should have the very opposite structure.

A little reflection on the same law of descent will show that a son can resemble his father only in half his organization. It similarly follows, that on this son intermarrying, he may not communicate to the grandson the share which he has in his father's, but that which he has in his mother's, conformation.

* That is, the temple and over the ear.

Thus, one half the father's organization must be lost in the son, and the other half may disappear in the grandson, so that the latter shall not have the slightest degree of the organization, nor the slightest resemblance to his grandfather.

Hence it follows, that a man may not have the slightest interest, physical or moral, in his second or third generation.

On how slender a basis, then, are founded the claims of hereditary descent ; the certainty that the son must have a very partial resemblance to the father, that the grandson may have none, and that every probability is against subsequent generations having the slightest.

But if all this be the case, it must be obvious of what vast importance are the facts previously announced.

It is remarkable that, in the propagation of resemblance from parents to progeny, the mental organs should be divided ; one parent giving one portion, namely, those of sensation and observation—and the other parent giving the other portion, namely, those of passion and volition, while the intermediate middle part is also divided. Thus the mental faculties are equally derived from both parents ; but, as indicated by the preceding laws, the parent giving passion and volition, gives apparently the vital, and part, at least, of the locomotive functions, which chiefly depend on passion and volition.

A little reflection explains the cause of this peculiar division of the mental system, as well as this dependence of the vital and locomotive systems.

It is evident, that in all the voluntary acts of animals the mental system must take the lead ; and that, in the act of generation, they are functions of that system—passion and volition, which must excite the locomotive to fulfil the purposes of the vital system. Hence, in generation, the apparent predominance of the mental system.

It is also evident, that in all voluntary acts in which two sexes are engaged, two mental systems are involved ; and as the first portion of the mental system, sensation and observation, is relatively passive or dependent on impressions, and the last portion, passion and volition, relatively active and exciting to locomotion, it is probable that, in generation, one sex will always be relatively passive and the other relatively active. Hence the progeny will receive, from one parent, the organization on which, in the mental system, sensation and observation depend, and, from the other, that on which passion and volition depend ; for the very term *propagation* implies the communication of similar organs and functions, and, therefore, of the most energetic and characteristic ones.

Thus the communication of mind and of its most distinguishing or peculiar characteristics to progeny, depends on mind and the relative predominance of its two great divisions in parents.

There remains one other great distinction to account for, namely, that of sex ; and, as this is as closely connected with the vital, as the preceding distinction is with the mental system, it will be found to depend on the vital system—the relative energy of its sexual portion and abundance of its secretion in the male or female parent.

Thus, as the internal organization and external character of the mental system in progeny depend on the relative, though variable, predominance

of the portions of the mental system in parents ; so the sexual distinction of the vital system depends on the relative energy of the sexual portion of the vital system in parents.

It is obviously because these two fundamental distinctions of mind and sex thus depend upon totally different causes, that they may be variously combined and intermixed in progeny.

Hence arise the four simplest combinations of character in the children of one family : the paternal organs of sensation and observation with the male sex—the maternal organs of sensation and observation with the female sex ; the paternal organs of passion, volition, &c. with the male sex—the maternal organs of passion, volition, &c. with the female sex.

When, moreover, it is considered how much the combination of functions are causes of modification, as in the case of different sex with similar features, it will easily be seen to what infinite variety of aspect, in the same family, this must lead.

Thus briefly sketched, the author submits this doctrine to the test of public observation. He has no fear that it will not be applied to it. The subject is too interesting, and its results too important, not to ensure this.

It is not, however, pretended that these laws are traced with perfect accuracy, or that they are the whole of those which regulate the resemblance of progeny to parents ; for there appear occasional exceptions to them, especially as to the teeth, ears, nails, and some subordinate parts, as well as various modifications of all of them, which are at present unaccountable to the writer. To this, indeed, the great variety of countenance in the same family may, in a great measure, be due. Some important principles, therefore, may still, perhaps, escape observation.

London Medical and Surgical Journal.

HISTORY OF AN AUTUMNAL FEVER.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

IN the Autumn of 1827 a disease made its appearance in the village in which I resided, exhibiting the following symptoms.

It commenced with shivering, often with coldness, which in some cases amounted to an ague ; in others, not less severe, it seemed to be only a severe trembling, without any complaint of coldness. Pain in the abdomen came on early after the attack, and occurred in distinct paroxysms, with intervals of considerable ease. In some cases the pain extended over the whole abdomen ; more commonly it was referred to either the hypogastric or iliac region. The pulse was small and frequent ; the surface in most cases cold, inclined to purple ; and the impression left, by pressure of the finger on the face or hands, would remain visible for some seconds. The feet were very generally cold at first, and were with difficulty kept warm in subsequent stages of the disease. The tongue exhibited a dark or yellow fur, and was often dry in the centre. Vomiting was almost a universal symptom ; the matter ejected being green or brown, rarely yellow at first. In some cases the tenderness of the abdomen was considerable ; in others, not. In all

cases the abdomen became more or less distended ; in some, exceedingly tense and elastic.

The symptoms varied considerably in different cases ; in all, febrile symptoms attended, bearing a strong resemblance to those attending the pneumonia typhodes. There was not the slightest affection of the lungs apparent in any case. The disease was evidently congestive, rather than inflammatory ; and whenever inflammation did take place, it was not of the *entoncic* character, and the attendant fever was always astatic.

In the treatment of the disease, bleeding was prescribed in but three cases, all of which were fatal. In the first case, the first bleeding gave temporary relief ; in both the other instances in which it was used, very unfavorable symptoms occurred almost immediately. Purgatives, especially calomel, either alone or in combination with opium ; croton oil, oil of pine blisters, the warm bath, fomentations and injections, constituted the early treatment. Opium, with other diffusible stimulants, and quinine, were often advantageously presented in the sequel.

From the 16th of November, 1827, to the 1st of January, 1828, about 25 cases occurred in my circle of practice, and many more cases appeared during the winter and spring following. I saw three fatal cases—two in my own practice, and one in consultation with a neighboring physician.

Cases.

CASE I.—M. D., aged 13, a healthy girl, was attacked on the night of the 16th of November with severe pain in the abdomen and loins, which was violent and occurred in paroxysms. Twenty-four hours after the attack I saw her for the first time. She had had no chill ; her pulse was 110 in a minute, irritated, hard, and small. The abdomen was greatly distended, tender to the touch, and very painful ; the paroxysms of pain were referred to the loins and hypogastric region. The countenance was flushed, of a purplish appearance, and contracted so as to exhibit the sardonic smile. The fur on the tongue was abundant, brown, with a yellow tint in the centre, and very dry. The stomach was irritable, rejecting almost every substance introduced into it, together with much other matter of a dark green appearance. The patient was extremely restless, slept none, throwing the arms out of bed, and rolling the head incessantly on the pillow.

Believing the case to be enteritis, I opened a vein and took from 12 to 14 ounces of blood ; directed the bowels to be fomented, and a blister twelve inches square to be applied to the abdomen. Twenty grains of calomel were administered every six hours ; and the infusion of senna was directed to be given as freely as the stomach would bear, till the medicine operated freely. Large injections of a decoction of thoroughwort were occasionally administered.

Third day.—No improvement ; the puking very troublesome ; bowels not moved ; senna rejected ; pulse 120. Twelve ounces of blood were drawn at my second visit ; the coagula was loose, with a cloud-like buff floating upon its surface. Faintness followed this bleeding, and the pulse became small and increased in frequency. A grain of opium was given with the calomel, and was repeated every four hours.

Half an ounce of castor oil was given occasionally, and warm fomentations were applied over the blistered surface of the abdomen. The injections of thoroughwort were continued.

Fourth day.—Physic operated five times in the course of the 24 hours. The discharges were feculent and very offensive; symptoms not abated; pain as severe as ever; tumor of the abdomen not diminished; pulse 140; restlessness extreme; extremities cold.

Fifth day.—All the symptoms showing that dissolution was at hand; cold sweats and hiccup were added to the symptoms; black vomit followed, and she expired towards the close of the day.

CASE II.—O. H., aged 9 years, was attacked on the morning of the 27th of November with severe pain in the abdomen, sickness at the stomach, and vomiting. His countenance was pale, and expressed much anxiety. His parents supposing it ordinary colic, gave him essence of peppermint and a common aloetic cathartic. In the evening I saw him: his pain was paroxysmal, and referred to the lower parts of the abdomen; the intervals of ease were of some minutes continuance; his pulse was small and soft, not remarkably frequent; his skin was cool, extremities cold and livid, showing great deficiency of capillary action. The abdomen, though tumid, was not very tender to the touch. His tongue was covered with a brown slime, the body of it pale and flabby. He had great thirst, much inclination to vomit, and threw off from his stomach a large quantity of green fluid. His bowels were costive; he had a desire to visit the stool often, without effect.

I gave him half a grain of opium, with two and a half of calomel, every two hours; directed that his feet be fomented and kept warm, and that warm fomentations be applied to the abdomen, followed by a blister. By this course the pain was abated, and the patient had some quiet sleep. A tea of senna was given him freely, and injections were occasionally repeated, without moving the bowels.

On the morning of the second day, so much relief had been procured by the remedies that further medical aid was considered unnecessary. This was, however, a delusive respite, as all the symptoms were aggravated in the course of the day; his coldness had increased, in spite of all efforts to produce warmth, and the medicine had not acted upon his bowels. The warm bath was directed, a large blister applied to the abdomen, the calomel was increased to five grains and repeated every two hours with the opium, and every effort was made to warm the surface and excite the pulse; but in vain. He expired in convulsions early on the third day of his disease.

These cases were at some distance from my residence, and were seen but very little by any physician.

CASE III.—H. P., aged 12 years, was attacked on the night of the 20th of December, 1827, with most severe pain in the abdomen, which occurred in paroxysms. The lady with whom she lived gave her a full dose of laudanum, warm drinks, and essence of peppermint, which greatly relieved the pain, and it did not recur again severely afterwards. A slight chill, or rather coldness, preceded the symptoms. After the pain had abated, a grain of calomel and half an ounce of castor oil were

given to the patient. This not operating, the castor oil was repeated without effect. The patient getting worse, and the costiveness proving obstinate, I was consulted 60 hours after the attack. The pain had nearly ceased in the abdomen when undisturbed, but motion or pressure renewed it. While it continued, the abdomen was much distended and very tense. The tongue was covered with a thick fur, inclined to be dry, and the thirst was very urgent. The stomach was very irritable, throwing off all insipid drinks and much matter of a dark green appearance. The pulse was 120 in a minute, and extremely small and soft ; the respiration laborious, and attended by continued sighing. The countenance was purple ; the hands were cold and very livid ; impressions with the finger would remain some seconds on the hands or face. The whole surface of the body, even that of the abdomen, was below a natural temperature. Ten grains of calomel, with half a grain of opium, were given her every four hours, and a strong infusion of senna as freely as it could be taken. Injections were repeated frequently, and a blister 15 inches square was applied to the abdomen.

Fourth day.—Every fluid had been rejected from the stomach, and the symptoms remained the same. The calomel and opium were continued, and a pill of aloes and aromatics was repeated every hour, and equal parts of castor oil and oil of pine were given occasionally.

Fifth day.—No amendment ; bowels not moved. Fifteen grains of calomel were given every two hours, with half a drop of croton oil. The blister was renewed, and hot dry flannels frequently applied to the abdomen and extremities. Injections of thoroughwort and oil of pine were frequently administered.

Sixth day.—Symptoms the same ; no movement of the bowels. Wine and nourishment were added to the remedies. Twenty grains of calomel were given every two hours, and one drop of croton oil every four hours. The blister was renewed daily ; fomentations were applied extensively over the abdomen and extremities. These remedies were administered with great punctuality till the close of the eighth day, when the bowels moved freely. The dejections were dark, highly fetid, and very free. From this time all the symptoms gradually abated, and the patient recovered.

No ptyalism followed in this case, although about 800 grains of calomel were given in the course of four days, most of which was retained on the stomach ; in addition to which, half a drachm of croton oil was given before any operation from the bowels took place.

CASE IV.—M. R., aged 16, a healthy girl, was attacked on the 25th of December, 1827. She was rather cold than chilly ; had a violent pain in the bowels and loins, occurring in paroxysms. The pulse was small, frequent, and soft ; the surface livid and cold, especially the extremities. The tongue was covered with a dark slimy fur, its body pale and flabby ; thirst considerable. The bowels were constipated, the stomach irritable, abdomen tumid and cold, and she complained of great lassitude and prostration of strength. Previous to my visit, her friends had given her two and a half teaspoonfuls of laudanum, and a dose of castor oil, without any relief whatever.

My first visit was 24 hours after the attack, when she was directed to

take fifteen grains of calomel every four hours, with forty drops of laudanum every two hours, while the pain continued so severe. Alternating with the calomel, half an ounce of castor oil was given, and injections of infusion of thoroughwort and oil of pine were given occasionally.

Third day.—Symptoms still severe ; pain had abated ; no evacuations from the bowels. Calomel was increased to twenty grains every four hours, and the oil of croton substituted for the castor oil, one drop of which was given alternately with the calomel every four hours, and laudanum twenty-five drops every two hours. A large blister was applied to the abdomen. The injections were repeated as on the second day.

Fourth day.—All the symptoms aggravated ; coldness, and livid surface remarkable ; no evacuations from the bowels. The laudanum increased to forty drops every two hours ; the calomel and croton oil given as yesterday.

Fifth day.—Physic operated ; evacuations copious, fetid, of a very unnatural appearance. Calomel and croton oil omitted ; laudanum diminished to thirty drops every two hours. A slight ptyalism took place, and the patient recovered rapidly.

Remark.—Experience in this form of disease, as well as in all others in which the croton oil is indicated, has satisfied me that it is much better to combine it with simple syrup, than to form it into a pill as many have directed ; it being volatile, much of its strength is lost in the latter mode.

Such is a very brief account of a disease which appeared sporadically for a year or two, and which nearly amounted to an epidemic in the winter of 1827-8. The few cases given were amongst the most prominent and severe. The histories are an abridgment of a more elaborate account drawn up at the time. The local disease was always in the abdomen. The general symptoms resembled very closely those of pneumonia with congestion, and took a wide range from the near approach to entonic inflammation on the one hand, and to that form of pneumonia on the other, in which re-action is never developed, in which the powers of life are prostrated in the onset by the overwhelming force of disease.

September, 1833.

W.

NITRATE OF SILVER.

I HAVE used this remedy with decided advantage in palpitation of the heart, whether arising from nervous sympathy, chronic rheumatism, or organic disease. Also in congestion of the brain, epilepsy and mania ; and in dyspeptic and aphthous affections of the throat and mouth, in chronic diarrhoea, in leucorrhœa, and hemorrhagia. The doses in which it has been prescribed by me have been from one third of a grain to a grain or more, three or four times a day. As a means of blistering the surface, in cases where there is great restlessness and delirium, and in mania, it has a decided advantage over the lytta, or any other vesicatory in use, it being so easily applied.

A combination of sulphate of quinine and nitrate of silver, with a moderate addition of opium, although apparently incompatible, has done very well in my hands where tonics were indicated in the complaints

enumerated. Nitrate of silver may be given in larger doses than have usually been prescribed. A patient of mine that had leucorrhœa, with severe paroxysms of palpitation of the heart, took by mistake five grains of the nitrate of silver three times a day, two days in succession. It acted smartly on the bowels as a purge, doing no harm to the patient, but made a decidedly favorable impression upon the disease.

September 5th, 1833.

W.

MEDICAL IMPROVEMENT.—NO. II.

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It is a very delicate task to inform a person of his defects. He is apt to suspect the motive, and to imagine that "a friendly eye could never see such faults;" nor is the appropriate reply that "a flatterer's would not," usually sufficient to convince him of the sincerity, disinterestedness and benevolence of his censor. The difficulty is still greater, when we mention and endeavor to correct any considerable error in a large body, faculty, or association. The *esprit de corps* seems often to be stronger than even self love, because it is liable to awaken party feelings. When this is the case, mankind are ever inclined to go to much greater length than in their individual capacities. If the cry is once raised, "the craft is in danger," while the excitement continues there is an end to all free inquiry, and it is in vain to attempt to gain an impartial hearing.

Probably the medical faculty are as sensitive, when their imperfections are noticed, as any other body; and many seem reluctant to admit, when suggestions are made concerning a defect, that they can possibly come from one who is not an enemy of the profession. They appear to forget that evils are never removed, unless by accident, till they have been so far investigated as to attract attention, and that it is only the real friend who is likely to suggest the true remedy.

The difficulties, however, which lie in the way of the improvement and reformation of professions, faculties, and associations, by no means belong exclusively to the bodies themselves. Their correctors too often need correcting, and the very censors, on their own part, deserve censure. Their efforts are not always, perhaps rarely, made in the perfect spirit of benevolence and meekness. Circumstances which greatly palliate, if they do not entirely exonerate, are often overlooked. It is easy to find fault, and some seem to take "pleasure in being displeased." An ill-tempered and injudicious exposure of defects, irritates rather than heals; and the wound, in many such cases, would have done better had it never been touched. By bringing the unruly passions into exercise, the proposed remedy becomes worse than the disease. Further—those who are in the habit of complaining, too often content themselves with mere censure; they describe the disease, but do not prescribe the remedy.

These remarks are made, in order to show that the writer, as he humbly conceives, in his strictures upon *Medical Improvement*, has not confined his views to a single side of the subject. Of the three learned professions, that of Physic, in our country, is surrounded with the greatest

difficulties and the most numerous embarrassments. In the first place, in proportion to their exercise of mind, fatigue of body, and hazard of life, to say nothing of the previous expense of their education, physicians have less compensation for their services than any other class of men in society. There is another very discouraging circumstance. Real merit is less liable to be distinguished and appreciated, and is much more frequently overlooked and left without any suitable reward, than in either of the other professions. An eminent lawyer or clergyman is always sure of ample employment and proportional pay. The public feel that he is necessary for them ; and instead of his being obliged to court their patronage, it is for their interest to seek him. Mankind do not, in general, pay the same respect to medical learning, talents, and integrity. Upon the principle; therefore, that every branch of business will flourish in proportion to the encouragement (that is, to the honor or emolument, or both) that attends it, it is evident that physicians, as a body, would be likely to have fewer eminent men, or perhaps a greater share of mediocrity in their numbers, than either of the other professions. At any rate, it seems to be an unquestionable fact in this country, with the exception of the professors in our public schools, that there are much fewer eminent scholars, and many more men of imperfect education, among physicians, than are to be found among lawyers or clergymen. While this state of things exists, the medical faculty can never have the same weight and influence in society, or command the same respect, as the other professions. The profession that has the most knowledge and the best mental discipline, has, in the end, the most respect and influence.

However, there is a bright side, or at least there are some sunny spots amidst all this shade. Notwithstanding all their burdens and embarrassments, physicians generally love the practice of physic, and have a very ardent attachment to their profession. There is something in the consciousness of doing good—there is a generous sympathy acquired in the habit of relieving the miseries of mankind, which, whether observed or not by the world, carries with it its own reward, and in a great degree sets the possessor above all venal considerations. It is this feeling that sustains and animates the physician, under all his pains and labors, which otherwise are often more poorly repaid than the work of the most indifferent mechanic. The medical practitioner must have a support ; but if pecuniary considerations were his only motive, there is not one in ten who might not do better by relinquishing his profession, and exchanging it for almost any other reputable employment. As far as personal services are concerned, the medical faculty perform more works of charity and humanity, than probably all the other classes of civilized society combined. In addition to the gratification which always attends deeds of this kind, the physician has another prolific source of enjoyment. The scientific part of his profession, including the auxiliary branches, is one of the most interesting subjects in which the mind can be engaged.

It is of great importance that mankind should have right views of the nature of the learned professions ; otherwise, those who enter upon them will be liable to be disappointed at every step, and be apt to be discouraged, so as in a great degree to make their lives useless to others and a burden to their friends and themselves. The acquisition of money, sur-

ther than is necessary to furnish and ensure a decent supply of the comforts and conveniences of life, never ought to be the primary object of a professional man. His ruling passion should be the perfection of his profession, both in theory and practice. If he cannot bring his mind to this point, he is never likely to excel, and has chosen an employment for which he is unfitted by nature. In this country, deserving clergymen, of either of our principal denominations, are very sure of a comfortable and respectable support; but they are never to become rich by performing the duties of their sacred office. The same is true of lawyers, as a general rule—they being, as a body, more indifferently supported than the clergy. Two or three exceptions in a county, and the high eminence to which some attain in large cities, may seem at first view not to justify this remark; but there are only a few high prizes among hundreds of blanks—and when we consider the condition of the whole number of the members of the bar, our rule will unquestionably hold good, as to the average. The number of physicians who become rich by their profession is vastly smaller than that of the lawyers; and the average income, of the country practitioners at least, is much less than that of the clergy. There are several counties in New England, in which the income of the practising physicians (not reckoning the new candidates, or the superannuated practitioners) does not average more than \$500 a year to each individual. The writer rather thinks that this is not far from the fact in the county where he resides.

From the preceding considerations, it is evident that acquisition of wealth never ought to be the main object of the learned professions. If they have only a decent support they should be contented, and expect to find their principal satisfaction in the performance of their duties. To be able to do good, and to be constantly improving themselves so as to do more good, must be to them the highest pleasure, and almost the only source of happiness. As far as human imperfection will admit, it should be their aim to elevate themselves above all the common, groveling concerns of life, till the perfection of their profession, and the execution of its duties, become their ruling passion. When undertaken in this point of view, literary, scientific, and professional pursuits, tempered and regulated, as everything else should be, by right moral feelings and principles, become the highest source of rational enjoyment which the human mind can possess. The present object is to induce the profession to avail themselves of the advantages which they enjoy, to become the most useful to themselves, at the same time that they are most beneficial to the community. Happily, there is no clashing of interests; both are necessarily combined, and mutually assist each other, when carried to any degree of perfection.

The indulgence of the reader is claimed for the preceding desultory, and possibly irrelevant, remarks. On perusing them, the writer finds that he is still in his preface, and has not yet arrived at his main object. He is sensible that the loquacity and garrulity of the old man are daily creeping on him. Happy will he be, while attempting to detail the results of his personal observation, if he shall not involve them in so much matter that is foreign to the subject, as to make them tedious and unworthy of the attention of his junior brethren. He writes much in the

spirit that he feels at the time, and may perhaps furnish still another number of miscellaneous remarks, though he now expects in his next essay to take up in good earnest the subject of MEDICAL IMPROVEMENT. S.

SULPHUR AND VAPOR BATHS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MR. EDITOR,—There is no axiom more certain than that the abuse of a good thing will, in the opinion of the public, deprive it of its just reputation, and prevent its legitimate employment. Among the remedies which at the present day are deprived of their just rights by this circumstance, are those classes which act generally and directly on the external surface—such as sulphur and vapor baths, friction, shampooing, and so forth. The truth is, that their obvious utility in disease, and the little science which is required, or rather, we would say, supposed to be required in their application, have thrown them almost entirely into the hands of irregular practitioners, who puff them as panaceas, and apply them indiscriminately to all cases whatsoever. The effect of this is, that an important therapeutic means is taken out of the hands of those who could use it to advantage, to be put exclusively into the hands of those, who by consent practise it often unskillfully, and sometimes with great danger to the welfare of the patient. How is this to be remedied, Mr. Editor? Would it not be a public benefit to have sudatories and fumigatories established under the superintendence and with the sanction of physicians, to which they might send their patients, and if necessary or desirable overlook in person the application of the remedy? Some years since one of our highly respectable practitioners established vapor and sulphur baths in this city for the use of the public generally, and for a time they were considerably patronized during his life. After his demise the establishment passed into other hands, and we fear did not gain the support to which it was entitled. At this moment we are doubtful whether any public baths of the kind alluded to exist among us. A few private establishments at the houses of physicians may be found, but they are useful only to the private patients of their proprietors. An establishment of this kind, which was known to have the confidence of the faculty here, and to which they could recommend their patients, could hardly fail to succeed, and prove a public advantage. On the continent of Europe so much attention is paid to this matter, that public fumigating establishments are placed under the charge of scientific physicians, whose sole employment is to attend to their due management; and, if I am correctly informed, none others but scientific men are allowed to keep them. I offer this hint, Mr. Editor, through the medium of your paper, in the hope that it may find some of your readers interested in the subject, and disposed to exert themselves in getting up an establishment of the kind I propose.

HIASTRALIPES.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 25, 1833.

"W." ON UTERINE HEMORRHAGE.

AMONG the many and most valued of those medical gentlemen who have made record of their experience in this Journal, few, if any, have contributed papers more acceptable and useful to the profession, than the practitioner who writes with the signature of W. Be he far or near, young or old, we commend his writings to particular notice, as marked by strict accuracy in the observation and statement of facts, by sound and discriminating judgment, and by an unusual measure of professional skill and ability in distinguishing and managing the various forms of some of the most severe of the diseases we are called to treat. In addition to the papers from this source already published, we offer in this number one that will be read with interest and advantage, and shall present others from time to time, it is to be hoped, for a long season to come.

We have spoken thus plainly our sentiments, in consequence of the accidental publication, in our last, of a short and very unjust criticism signed "Junius Medicus." This communication was received two or three weeks ago, and laid aside on our table as unfit for use, but by some inadvertence it was taken with other matter to the office and printed in due form. By comparing it with the essay it is designed to criticise, the reader will find that it betrays a total misconception of the statements of W. Dr. W. has no where stated that he could rupture the membranes with the finger when no pain or symptom of labor was present, nor that ergot will produce uterine action under like circumstances. He does not state that the os uteri can be dilated at such times (although it doubtless may), nor that he made no use of instruments in rupturing the membranes. Yet all of these are positions which Junius assumes to have been taken by our correspondent. The most cursory reader will notice the absurdity of Junius's criticism of W.'s remarks about the alarm of patients attacked with uterine hemorrhage; whilst the closer he examines those remarks, the more will he be convinced of their correctness and value. Indeed the whole paper of Dr. W. to which Junius refers, is an exact exposition of the best practice in cases of uterine hemorrhage, and contains, besides, an improvement wholly new we believe with the author, and of which we have since availed with great success and satisfaction. We repeat, that the remarks of Junius were published through inadvertence, which we regret.

Papers commenting on the articles that appear in this Journal will never be published unless they are couched in the most respectful terms—contain just criticism, that the good of the profession seems to require, and come from sources known to be respectable; and of all and each of these conditions we shall endeavor to judge with entire impartiality.

ANATOMICAL PREPARATIONS.

THE following is a method strongly recommended in the *Natural History Magazine* for making anatomical preparations:

The bottle in which spirit preparations are placed, should have a lip round the mouth, to which the covering may be secured ; the preparation should never be suspended by string or thread ; if it be, the thread, passing from the spirit over the lip of the bottle to the open air, will soon, by acting as a syphon, carry off the spirit, however, perfect the covering may be in other respects. The spirit in which the objects are preserved should consist of equal parts of rectified alcohol and very soft water ; if hard water be used, the preparation will be cloudy. The spirit should be mixed several days before use, and filtrated through blotting paper, to separate all impurities. The parts to be preserved should be suspended in as natural a situation as possible, by means of fine gut, such as is attached to fishing hooks. This will not absorb the spirit, and, being transparent, will not be visible in the fluid. The pieces of gut to which the preparation is attached should be secured to another piece of gut tied round the neck of the bottle. The lip and neck of the bottle should be well covered with gum water, as thick as it can be made, which, being insoluble in spirit of wine, will effectually secure the bladder to the neck. A portion of bladder should then be extended tightly over the top and neck of the bottle, and bound firmly in its situation by coils of tape wound repeatedly round the neck. Before the bladder is put on, it should be soaked for a day or two in water ; if it be in rather a putrid state, it will answer better. The preparation should now be set aside for a few days to dry, when the tape may be entirely removed from the neck of the bottle ; for the gum will have fixed the bladder so securely that nothing further will be required, and a string round the neck disfigures the appearance. A piece of sheet lead, such as is used in tea chests, should be accurately cut to cover the mouth and lip of the bottle ; this should be placed over the bladder with a coat of thick white paint beneath, and a similar coat above it ; wet bladder should be extended over the lead and paint, taking care to expel the globules of air ; this bladder must be bound on with tape in a similar manner to the former one, and the preparation set by for a fortnight to dry and harden ; the tape may then be removed, the edges of the bladder cut level round, and the top painted, first with black paint, and then with black varnish. It should not be attempted to cut the bladder level round the neck of the bottle earlier than here recommended ; for if it be cut at first, the edges of the bladder are apt not to adhere closely ; the bladder below the line, where it is cut round, will easily be removed from the bottle with a knife and a little warm water.

In putting up dried animal preparations, when spirits of turpentine is used, the same process must be pursued ; but, instead of the white paint, very thick gum must be used, which, being insoluble in turpentine, effectually prevents its evaporation.

Sigaultian Operation.—M. Baudelocque, the nephew, states that he has just performed this operation on a pregnant woman, according to his own method, with success. The child was born alive, and the mother, who herself nursed it, has not experienced any of those unpleasant consequences which commonly follow the section of the symphysis pubis.

Révue Médicale.

Case of Purpura Hemorrhagica.—A young woman, about 24, applied to me a short time since for a severe hemorrhage from the fauces ; her

skin was also thickly spotted with petechiae, and marked with intervening vibices; the tongue was brown, and the pulse was weak, so that further depiction appeared inadmissible. Carbonate of ammonia was given; but with no good effect on the hemorrhage or petechiae. Aware of the effect of the action of vomiting on the venous circulation, which it appears to excite in a high degree, I directed half a grain of tartarized antimony to be taken every quarter of an hour in a little water, till vomiting should be produced. The result surpassed my expectation: immediately after vomiting the hemorrhage ceased; from that time the petechiae and vibices were gradually and rapidly absorbed, and the young woman recovered her usual health without the repetition of the emetic or the employment of any other remedy.—R. P. PLAYER. *Med. Gaz.*

New Kind of Hernia.—M. Langier presented to the Academy of Medicine, of Paris, a preparation taken from a man, who died of peritonitis after the operation for hernia. The hernia was observed, on dissection, to have taken place, through the fibres of Gimbernat's ligament, which explained the necessity there was, during the operation, for directing the edge of the knife in various directions, before the gut could be returned.

Archives Générals.

The Communication of "Medicus" we shall be happy to publish if he will favor us with his name. Cases such as he describes are interesting to the profession, and ought to be published; but always with authority known to the publisher, if not given in print. We can add two cases very similar that have recently occurred in our own practice.—The remarks on "Opium Eating" came too late for the present Number.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending September 20, 44. Males, 16—Females, 28. Of internal hemorrhage, 1—consumption, 8—infantile, 6—typhous fever, 1—jaundice, 1—apopxy, 1—unknown, 1—scirrhous, 1—swinepest, 1—lung fever, 9—cancer, 3—dysentery, 3—cholera infantum, 1—worm fever, 1—old age, 3—liver complaint, 1—scarlet fever, 1—accidental, 3—paralytic, 1—teething, 1—droopy on the brain, 2—chronic diarrhea, 1—nervous fever, 1—inflammation on the lungs, 2.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

LECTURES ON THE DISEASES OF THE EYE.

A Course of Lectures on the Diseases of the Eye will be delivered at the rooms of the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, in Boston, to commence the last week in October, and continue twice a week. The pathology of the Eye will be illustrated by such cases as attend the Infirmary. For further information apply at the infirmary apartments, corner of Summer and Washington Streets, on Monday, Wednesday or Friday of each week, between the hours of 12 o'clock M. and 1 o'clock P. M.

Boston, September 10th, 1833.

optn.

JOHN JEFFRIES.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

MEDICAL LECTURES.

The MEDICAL LECTURES in HARVARD UNIVERSITY will begin in the Massachusetts Medical College, Mason Street, Boston, the third Wednesday in October next, at a quarter before nine, A. M., and continue four months.

Anatomy and Surgery, Dr. WARREN.

Chemistry, Dr. WEBSTER.

Material Medicis, Dr. BICKLOW.

Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, Dr. CHANNING.

Theory and Practice of Physic, Dr. JACKSON,

Dr. WARE.

WALTER CHANNING, Dens.

Boston, May 10, 1833.

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